

From: [REDACTED]
To: FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty
Cc: info@copyrightalliance.org
Subject: IP Rights Legislation
Date: Wednesday, March 24, 2010 12:49:17 PM

Dear Ms. Espinel,

ASMP and the Copyright Alliance have informed me of this welcome invitation from the Obama Administration to share my thoughts on my rights as a creator.

I create images for a living. My clients expect me not only to give them top quality but also protect their investment with my copyright registration. However, I am most often hindered by the lack of protection offered under the current IP laws. The thought of those laws being further weakened by new legislation is even more worrisome.

The interests fighting against IP laws are very short-term thinkers since artists are encouraged to create intellectual property when they can be assured to control whatever they create. Sure, some artists are unreasonable in valuations of their own work but a "free market" will even the playing field for everyone. What artists cannot have is the thought that all work is "fair game" for profit, exploitation and all other whims of interests who simply get their hands on a photograph, drawing, song or other creation.

Please help us protect and control our property, just like laws protect homes, cars, jewelry and other real possessions. If a thief is caught stealing a purse with \$50 in it, chances are he will go to jail, court and end up with a criminal record. However, when a company steals a photograph worth \$5,000 (as many commercial photographs are when used over a period of time), it is nearly impossible to get that company to pay for their theft...even with a proper copyright registration.

Unless there are guaranteed, quickly-imposed monetary and legal penalties, infringers will just keep stealing. I'm not sure what this costs the economy on an annual basis but I'm sure it's enough to warrant your attention.

Thanks for allowing our input. Feel free to contact me any time in the future.

Sincerely,

Corey Weiner, Photographer
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